

Amendments to the Claims:

Cancel claims 1-10, without prejudice.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-10. (cancelled)

11. (new) An electric steering and drive system for a vehicle having a pair of drive elements on respective sides of the vehicle, said system comprising:

a pair of drive shafts, each said drive shaft having a first end and a second end, each said first end being connected to a respective said drive element;

a differential gear mechanism connected to the second ends of the drive shafts;

a traction drive comprising at least one traction motor connected to at least one of the drive shafts;

an electric steering drive which is drive-connected to the differential gear mechanism;
and

at least two energy sources which can be operated independently of one another, said energy sources providing electric current to said traction drive and said electric steering drive.

12. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein at least one of the traction drive and the steering drive comprises two electric motors or one electric motor having two independent current circuits.

13. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein the traction drive comprises a pair of electric motors connected to respective said drive shafts, and the steering drive comprises two electric motors or one electric motor having two independent current circuits.

14. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein steering drive comprises an electric motor and the traction drive comprises a pair of electric motors connected to each said drive shaft or a single electric motor having at least two independent current circuits connected to each said drive shaft.

15. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 12 the traction drive comprises a pair of electric motors connected to each said drive shaft or a single electric motor having at least two independent current circuits connected to each said drive shaft.

16. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 further comprising at least one generator driven by at least one internal combustion engine, said at least one generator providing electric current for at least one of said traction drive and said steering drive.

17. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 further comprising at least one of a fuel cell and an energy store for providing electric current for at least one of said traction drive and said steering drive.

18. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein the traction drive comprises a pair of part motors on at least one of said axles, said part motors being separated by a fireproof bulkhead.

19. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein said at least one traction motor comprises two independent current circuits which are separated by a fireproof bulkhead.

20. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein the steering drive comprises a pair of part motors which are separated by a fireproof bulkhead.

21. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 wherein the steering drive comprises a motor having two independent current circuits which are separated by a fireproof bulkhead.

22. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 11 further comprising a pair of separately actuatable mechanical friction brakes on respective said drive shafts.

23. (new) The electric steering and drive system of claim 22 further comprising an independent energy source for actuating the friction brakes.